



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ALPHA COMPANY, 123D MAIN SUPPORT BATTALION  
1<sup>ST</sup> ARMORED DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND  
APO AE 09110



AETV-THS-M-A

8 January 2007

MEMORANDUM THRU

Commander, 123d Main Support Battalion, APO, AE 09110  
Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Support Command, APO, AE 09096  
Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, APO, AE 09096

FOR Chief OQMG, USA Quartermaster Center, 1201 22d Street, Fort Lee, VA 23801-1601


SUBJECT: Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Unit of the Regiment

1. As the present commander of Alpha Company, 123d Main Support Battalion, I strongly recommend the unit as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.
2. The heritage and legacy of this unit is a long and proud testimony to the worthiness for selection. Since 1942, Alpha Company has worn a few different titles and unit designations but its commitment to the service of our nation has never faltered.
3. Over the sixty-five years from initial activation, Alpha Company has served during times of peace and hostility. Whenever and wherever a Soldier needed support, Alpha Company answered the call and maintained the standard.
4. This is a proven unit that has carried the creed and legacy of the Quartermaster Regiment down thorough the years in keeping with the highest military tradition.
5. The Apaches are truly the epitome of what it means to be Warrior Logisticians and deserve recognition as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.
6. POC for this action is the undersigned at DSN 314-334-5834 or Norman.b.hodges@us.army.mil.

**"ALWAYS READY!"**

4 Encl:

1. Letter of Recommendation
2. Unit History
3. Lineage & Honors
4. Unit Crest

  
NORMAN B. HODGES IV  
CPT, QM  
Commanding



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1<sup>ST</sup> ARMORED DIVISION  
V CORPS  
APO AE 09096



AETV-THZ

17 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief OQMG, USA Quartermaster Center, 1201 22d Street, Fort Lee,  
VA 23801-1601

SUBJECT: Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Unit of the Regiment

1. I wholeheartedly endorse the selection of Alpha Company, 123d Main Support Battalion as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.
2. The long and proud heritage of this unit has brought significant credit to the Quartermaster Corps in both war and peace. Although it has not always been a Quartermaster Company, its lineage is now Quartermaster and for the many quartermasters who have proudly served in its ranks, it will always be Quartermaster.
3. This special recognition is long overdue and it is time we designate the "Apaches" as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

"IRON SOLDIERS"

FRED D. ROBINSON, JR.  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HQ, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND**  
**UNIT 24306**  
**APO AE 09096**

AETV-THS-CD

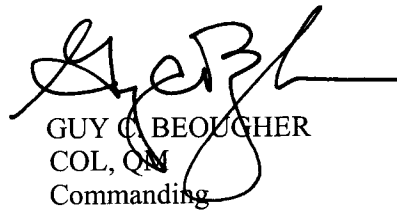
22 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief OQMG, USA Quartermaster Center, 1201 22d Street, Fort Lee, VA  
23801-1601

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

1. It is without prejudice or reservation that I unequivocally recommend Alpha Company, 123<sup>rd</sup> Main Support Battalion as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.
2. I have watched the unit's performance for nearly 10 years since my first tour in the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. It continues to compile a sterling record of achievement and excellence. The unit is a military standards bearer that has contributed to our nation's defense time and time again including North Africa, Italy, Kuwait, Iraq, Bosnia and Pakistan.
3. This special recognition is long overdue and it is time we designate the "Apaches" as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

"IRON SUPPORT"

  
GUY C. BEOUCHER  
COL, QM  
Commanding



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 123D MAIN SUPPORT BATTALION  
1<sup>ST</sup> ARMORED DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND  
APO AE 09110



AETV-THS-M

17 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief OQMG, USA Quartermaster Center, 1201 22d Street, Fort Lee,  
VA 23801-1601

SUBJECT: Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Unit of the Regiment

1. I strongly endorse the selection of Alpha Company, 123d Main Support Battalion as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.
2. Over the last twelve years, Alpha Company has deployed over 600 Soldiers to over 10 different countries in support of humanitarian missions, peacekeeping missions, Joint Training Exercises and Operation Iraqi Freedom. This company is the epitome of Warrior Logisticians and will continue to "Support Victory" as long as the Army calls on them.
3. This special recognition is long overdue and it is time we designate the "Apaches" as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

"MIGHTY MAIN"

ORLANDO D. CRITZER  
LTC, TC  
Commanding

# **ALPHA COMPANY, 123d MAIN SUPPORT BATTALION**

## **UNIT HISTORY**

### **WORLD WAR II**

The 123d Main Support Battalion (MSB) can trace its lineage back to 1 January 1942 when the 13th Quartermaster Battalion and 19th Ordnance Battalion were merged to form the 123d Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion of the 1st Armored Division. For the next few months, the 123d conducted training at Ft Knox, Ft Dix and then moved to Ireland. In November the 123d was alerted to join in the invasion of North Africa; beginning the famous history of "Old Ironsides" and the 123d Maintenance Battalion. The 123d landed on the beaches of Oran, Algeria on 8 November 1942 as the only ordnance troops in the Mediterranean assault convoy supporting OPERATION TORCH. The battalion participated in campaigns in Algeria, French-Morocco, and Tunisia. In September 1943, the battalion continued its vital support of "Old Ironsides" as it fought its way through Italy, participating in the Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley campaigns. It was during the Rome-Arno campaign in 1944 that the battalion was cited for meritorious service in support of military operations, and received the Meritorious Unit Citation along with six campaign streamers.

The cessation of hostilities in 1945 found the battalion operating in support of "Old Ironsides" in Northern Italy. From its start in North Africa through Italy, the outstanding support rendered by the 123d Maintenance Battalion was a major factor in the many victorious battles fought by the 1st Armored Division. The battalion was able to keep over 3000 vehicles in running order and issued over 10,000 replacement vehicles during their wartime service.

On 19 April 1946, after the occupation of Italy, the 123d was returned to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and was inactivated along with the 1st Armored Division.

### **THE COLD WAR ERA**

With the outbreak of the Korean Conflict in 1950 and the reactivation of "Old Ironsides" on 7 March 1951 at Fort Hood, Texas, the 123d Maintenance Battalion was again called upon to support the Division. The battalion continued in this role until 23 December 1957

when at Fort Polk, Louisiana, due to the reduction of the 1st Armored Division to a combat command, the 123d was inactivated less Company B, which remained in support of the command.

On 24 February 1962, because of serious world tensions, "Old Ironsides" was again reactivated as a complete division at Fort Hood, resulting in the 123d Maintenance Battalion being reactivated and assigned its traditional role of maintenance support to the division. Intense training followed the reorganization. In October 1962 the 1st Armored Division was declared combat ready, just in time for the Cuban Missile Crisis. In response to the Soviet stationing of missiles in Cuba, Old Ironsides deployed from Fort Hood, Texas to Fort Stewart, Georgia. The entire operation took just 18 days. For the next six weeks, the 1st Armored Division conducted live-fire training and amphibious exercises on the Georgia and Florida coasts.

Shortly thereafter, tensions eased and the 1st Armored Division returned to Ft. Hood. The battalion remained at Fort Hood until the 1st Armored Division moved to Germany to replace the Fourth Armored Division in the spring of 1971, and as a consequence the 123d Maintenance Battalion returned to Europe for the first time since World War II.

Due to reorganization of divisional support units under the Army of Excellence concept, in the early 1980's, the 123d Maintenance Battalion was inactivated on 15 December 1984. On 1 May 1987, the battalion was reactivated as the 123d Main Support Battalion. For the first time, Alpha Company was organized as a Quartermaster Supply & Service Company providing Class I, II, III, IV, VII and water support to the 1st Armored Division.

### **DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM**

In December 1990, Alpha Company and the rest of the battalion deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. On 24 February 1991, after three months at Tactical Assembly Area (TAA) THOMPSON the 1st Armored Division along with the rest of VII Corps conducted OPERATION DESERT SABER in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM. For 100 hours, the division attacked north from Forward Assembly Area (FAA) GARCIA into Iraq to destroy the Iraqi Republican Guard Forces. Alpha

Company received three campaign streamers and the Meritorious Unit Award for the deployment.

With the end of the cold war, US Army, Europe was downsized after all their units returned from OPERATION DESERT STORM. The 123d MSB inactivated on 22 November 1991 at Monteith Barracks in Fürth, Germany. But the inactivation was short lived with the reflagging of the 8th Infantry Division and its units as the 1st Armored Division. On 8 January 1992, the 123d Main Support Battalion was reactivated in Dexheim, Germany where it remains to this day.

### **TASK FORCE EAGLE**

On December 14, 1995, the US Army formed a Task Force and ordered it to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR. This task force, known as Task Force Eagle and led by the 1st Armored Division, assumed control of its area of responsibility during a transfer of authority ceremony with United Nations forces at Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia on December 20, 1995. The 123d Main Support Battalion deployed with Task Force Eagle to provide logistical support to the 1st Armored Division and its units.

After the historic bridging of the Sava River on December 31, 1995, the 1st Armored Division, with supporting forces from the U.S. V Corps, was joined by Nordic-Polish, Turkish, and Russian brigades - in total - 12 Nations: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States.

Task Force Eagle, one of the most powerful formations ever fielded, enforced the cease-fire, supervised the marking of boundaries and the zone of separation between the former warring factions, enforced withdrawal of the combatants, and the movement of the heavy weapons to designated storage sites. Alpha Company deployed Soldiers to numerous Task Force Eagle locations to provide logistics including POL Laboratory services, Class I, II, III, IV, VII and water supply.

Task Force Eagle also supported the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's efforts to administer the country's first ever democratic national elections.

On November 10, 1996, the 1st Armored Division and its attached units transferred authority for command and control of Task Force Eagle to the 1st Infantry Division and Alpha Company returned to home station in Dexheim. The 123d Main Support Battalion received the Army Superior Unit Award for its period of service with Task Force Eagle.

### **THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM**

On 11 September 2001, the world changed with the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. The US Army was given a new mission to rid the world of terrorists and rogue states.

The 123d MSB joined the fight by participating in and supporting combat operations against the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein and stability operations throughout the Iraqi theater from April 2003 to July 2004 in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. During this period, the 123d Main Support Battalion provided seamless support to the entire Task Force 1st Armored Division and attached units operating in and around Baghdad during OPERATION IRON SABER. The level of support provided to the division and the sheer number of missions accomplished reflect the dedication to service and the technical expertise that directly contributed to the Division's successful combat, security and stability operations.

Alpha Company supported a Task Force that exceeded 18,800 Soldiers with rations, bottled and bulk water, ice, Class II, DCUs, Iraqi uniforms, U.S. and Iraqi TA-50, package petroleum products III(P), bulk fuel (both JP8 and Mogas), Iraqi weapons and major end item resupply. Despite limited personnel and equipment, Alpha Company was directly responsible for issuing 302,272 Meals Ready to Eat and 641 pallets of Unitized Group Rations. Alpha Company issued over 12,683 items of CL II, IV, & VII, including over 411 HMMWVs, 1,877,367 gallons of CL III (B), 1,794,635 liters of bottled water and 784,983 gallons of bulk water in support of OPERATION IRON SABER. Alpha Company also had three water teams attached to the division's Forward Support Battalions, and provided water distribution support to all Division units located at



Baghdad International Airport (BIAP). Fuel was also pushed from Camp Anderson to locations throughout the Division footprint.

The actions and contributions of Alpha Company ultimately led to the successful defeat of Saddam Hussein's regime by V Corps and a successful transition to a sovereign government in Iraq on 28 June 2004. For its outstanding support during the deployment, the 123d Main Support Battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Award.

#### **MAJOR TASKS PERFORMED:**

- Conducted Combat Service Support for out of sector combat operations in Karbala in support of the Multi-National Division- Central South.
- Closure of FLB Dogwood and hand over to the Ministries of Oils, and Industry and Minerals
- Provided Combat Service Support for TF 1AD gunnery operations at Butler Range Complex (1st Armored Divisions gunnery complex).

#### **MAJOR TF 1AD OPERATIONS 123D MSB PARTICIPATED IN:**

- Iron Stability – Combat and Stability operations in Baghdad
- Operation Longstreet – Combat operations to defeat enemy forces along the 1AD flanks
- Operation Ridgeway – Counter Mortar operations to destroy enemy indirect fire systems
- Operation Iron Hammer- TF 1AD attacks to destroy enemy forces conducting mortar and rocket attacks
- Iron TOA – Transfer of Authority with the 1st Cavalry Division, assuming responsibility for Baghdad AO
- Operation Iron Return – Redeployment of TF 1AD forces to CONUS and Central Region

#### **RECOVERY AND SUPPORT**

The 123d MSB returned to Germany in the summer of 2004 and immediately returned to providing peacetime support and preparing for future battles. One of the first challenges placed on the 123d MSB was called OPERATION FREE CHICKEN. This event let units in USAREUR turn in any excess equipment or parts without any questions while the 123d MSB prepared, inventoried and turned in all the equipment. Units were also allowed to pick up free issue if any of the items turned in by other units was needed to fill current shortages. This allowed other units to continue to focus on their missions and not worry

about tedious turn-in procedures. Alpha Company personnel assisted in the operation which processed and turned in over 3000 pallets of equipment while saving the Army over \$4,500,000.

Alpha Company also continued to support operations around the world. When a major earthquake ravaged the Pakistani country side in late 2005, the US Army sent a medical task force based around the 212th MASH out of Germany. Alpha Company was tasked to provide water support for TASK FORCE LIFELINE and deployed on 72 hours notice in October 2005. 20 Soldiers spent the next five months in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan providing not only water support but other logistics functions including fuel and mortuary affairs support. The team provided over 477,500 gallons of water and 135,245 gallons of fuel along with conducting over 70 logistics convoys during their five months on ground. For their efforts, the team received the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Pakistani Sitar-i-Eisaar (Star of Sacrifice) Medal.

The Water Platoon also sent two Water Teams to Iraq in support of two Forward Support Battalions, the 47th FSB and 501st FSB where the teams conducted water operations and many other services during their yearlong deployments. The 47th team returned in November 2005 and the 501st team will return in early 2007. Alpha Company has also sent Soldiers as individual augmentees on Special Police Training Teams in Iraq and to the 5th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan.

Today, Alpha Company, 123d Main Support Battalion continues to support the 1st Armored Division and all its attached units in Europe with a far more complex support mission than ever before.

## **THE FUTURE**

In the Army's quest for modularity, the Main Support Battalion concept is being retired. The MSB's mission is being distributed to Brigade Support Battalions supporting Brigade Combat Teams. Sometime in the next few years, the 123d MSB will inactivate and the Soldiers of Alpha Company will disperse to other Army units throughout the world. The future of the 123d's lineage has already been decided with the 123d Brigade Support

Battalion standing up at Ft Bliss, Texas to support the new 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Alpha Company and the 123d MSB have left an indelible mark on the many Soldiers who have served with the unit over its 65 year history. Many of them will look back with pride, honor and a sense of accomplishment at what they were a part of; a great team whose mission was to ensure everyone around them had everything they needed at the right time and the right place. From World War II to the Cold War to the Global War on Terrorism, Alpha Company, 123d Main Support Battalion has answered the nation's call to duty at the forefront of the logistics battle and remained true to its motto, "Always Ready."

## **123d MAIN SUPPORT BATTALION**

### **LINEAGE AND HONORS**

#### **123d Main Support Battalion**

Constituted 1 January 1942 in the Regular Army as the 123d Maintenance Battalion and assigned to the 1st Armored Division

Activated 10 January 1942 at Ft Knox, Kentucky

Inactivated 19 April 1946 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey

Activated 7 March 1951 at Fort Hood, Texas

Inactivated (less Company B) 23 December 1957 at Fort Polk, Louisiana

Activated 24 February 1962 at Fort Hood, Texas

Inactivated 15 December 1984 in Germany

Redesignated 1 May 1987 as the 123d Main Support Battalion and activated in Germany

Inactivated 22 November 1991 in Germany

Activated 8 January 1992 in Germany

#### **123d Main Support Battalion Honors**

##### **Campaign Participation Credit**

Tunisia  
Anzio  
North Apennines  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Po Valley  
Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait  
Southwest Asia Cease-Fire  
Iraq

##### **Decorations**

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for EUROPEAN THEATER  
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for OPERATION DESERT STORM  
Army Superior Unit Award for 1995-1996  
Valorous Unit Award for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



### **DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA**

**Description:** Vert, on a mound issuant from a base a representation of the mythological forge of Vulcan argent fired proper, in a base a hammer and in sinister base an anvil of the second.

**Symbolism:** The shield is green and white, the colors of the armored forge. Hephaestus or Vulcan, the Greek mythological god of fire, especially the terrestrial fire, volcanic eruption, and the glow of the forge of hearth. He was the blacksmith of the gods, and finest artificer among them. His forge in Olympus was furnished with automatic hand maidens. He built the dwellings of the other gods. He made the scepter of Jove, the shields and spears of the other Olympians, the arrows of Apollo and Diana, the breastplate of Hercules and the shield of Achilles.

**Motto:** "Forging Onward"

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 123d Maintenance Battalion. On 1 October 2000, the insignia was redesignated for the 123d Support Battalion (Main).